

June 30, 2004

MPR7-04

Crop Acreage Increases for 2004

Maryland: Farmers indicate that they will be planting more corn, soybeans, and hay this year, according to a survey conducted in early June by the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service. Cropland planted to **corn** will increase to 510,000 acres, up 6% from 480,000 acres planted in 2003. Growers expect to harvest 440,000 acres of corn for grain this year, with the remaining corn harvested for silage or other uses. **Soybean** acreage is now estimated at 500,000 acres, up from 475,000 acres forecast in March, and well above the 435,000 acres planted in 2003. **Hay** acreage is expected to increase as well, with 205,000 acres of hay forecast to be harvested in 2004. However, a smaller percentage of the crop this year will be alfalfa. Alfalfa acreage is estimated at 35,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from 2003. Acres harvested of all other types of hay is expected to increase to 170,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from 2003.

Winter wheat plantings are estimated at 160,000 acres, down 3% from 2003. Producers expect to harvest 145,000 acres of wheat for grain, with an anticipated yield of 61 bushels per acre. The yield is significantly greater than last year's yield of 37 bushels per acre, but close to normal. This will result in a total production of 8.85 million bushels of wheat. **Barley** acreage is down 18% to 37,000 acres, with an expected harvest of 34,000 acres for grain.

Sorghum and potato acreage will remain unchanged, with 5,000 acres of **sorghum** and 4,700 acres of **potatoes** expected to be planted. Maryland **tobacco** acreage is forecast at 1,100 acres, up 10% from March's forecast of 1,000 acres.

United States: Corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 81.0 million acres, up 3 percent from both 2002 and 2003. Growers expect to harvest 73.4 million acres for grain, up 3 percent from 2003. Farmers increased corn plantings 1.96 million acres from their March intentions. Planting conditions during April and May across much of the Corn Belt were near ideal. Above-normal temperatures and light rainfall allowed planting to progress well ahead of the normal pace. Similar conditions were experienced in the northern and central Great Plains. However, planting progress slowed after mid-May as heavy rains fell in many areas of the Corn Belt. Growers in Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin experienced the most rainfall which prevented them from planting some of their acres originally intended for corn. Farmers reported that 98 percent of the corn acreage had been planted at the time of the survey interview, which is 1 percentage point above the average for the past 10 years.

The 2004 **soybean** planted area is estimated at 74.8 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted area on record and a rebound from the three year decline in acreage. Area for harvest, at 73.7 million acres, is also up 2 percent from 2003. The planted area is down 602,000 acres from the March Prospective Plantings report. Area planted increased or was unchanged from last year in all States except Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Growers in Illinois and Iowa showed the largest decreases in soybeans planted from 2003, but showed comparable increases in acres planted to corn. Farmers reported that 87 percent of the intended soybean acreage had been planted at the time of the survey interview, compared to an average of 78 percent for the past 10 years.

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ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 2003 AND 2004

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Maryland		<i>1,000 Acres</i>						<i>1,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	480	510	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	410	440	123	----	50,430	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	65	----	16	----	1,040	----
Soybeans	BU	435	500	430	490	37	----	15,910	----
Sorghum ¹	BU	6	5	----	----	----	----	----	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	3	3	65	----	195	----
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	3	----	10	----	30	----
Winter Wheat	BU	165	160	145	145	37	61	5,365	8,845
Barley	BU	45	37	38	34	57	----	2,166	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	195	205	2.8	----	539	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	45	35	3.3	----	149	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	150	170	2.6	----	390	----
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	1.1	1.1	1,450	----	1,595	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	37,000	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	240	----	1,104	----
United States								<i>1,000,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	78,736	80,968	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	71,139	73,362	142	----	10,114	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	6,528	----	16	----	106	----
Soybeans	BU	73,404	74,809	72,321	73,655	33	----	2,418	----
Sorghum ¹	BU	9,420	8,099	----	----	----	----	----	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	7,798	6,916	52.7	----	411	----
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	343	----	10.4	----	4	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	44,945	43,450	36,541	34,825	47	----	1,707	----
Barley	BU	5,299	4,666	4,688	4,152	59	----	276	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	63,342	61,589	2.48	----	157	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	23,578	22,226	3.24	----	76	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	39,764	39,363	2.03	----	81	----
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	411.2	414.0	1,952	----	803	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,352	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	63.7	58.3	59.0	56.6	322	----	19	----

¹ Acres planted is for all purpose.